

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

## BRIDGEPORT NOT ONE IN QUINION OVER WARRENITE

Many Other Communities Have Suffered Because Their Paving Contracts Were Not Open to Competitive Bidders and Patented Processes Were Favored.

EXPERTS SAY PRICE OF 90 CENTS IS FAIR

Bridgeport Taxpayers Must Pay Much More Because Mayor Has Experienced Startling Change of Heart As to Competition When the Money of the Taxpayer is Involved.

The excuse offered by the politicians who have promoted the enormous contracts in Warrenite pavement is, that it is a patented pavement, which is true, and that it is the best pavement, which is untrue.

Warrenite is well known to public officers over a large part of this country. Repeatedly its entrance into a community has been followed by scandal, like that in Bridgeport, after public officers have been seized with a blind and unaccountable infatuation for this particular pavement.

The New Jersey investigation disclosed some of the reasons why New Jersey authorities engaged in spending highway money, fell blindly in love with this patented article.

After considering carefully the evidence with respect to the relations between public officers and the companies making patented pavements, the New Jersey committee said:

"We think there is enough in the record taken by the committee to justify the opinion of the public prosecutor and grand jury of Essex county."

When Commissioner Gillen came to the department of highways in Newark he found the paving ring in complete control of the city.

As a result of his investigations he reached the conclusion, to use his language before the committee, that "where patented pavements are specified there can be no real competition and the whole thing is crooked and dishonest."

## WHY HAS MAYOR WILSON CHANGED HIS IDEAS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING?

I believe that all work, except such as is extremely urgent, should be advertised for, as required by ordinance, and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, and that the waiver of the mayor should not be requested except in great emergencies.—From Mayor Clifford B. Wilson's first message.

## SODA CLERK, HEIR TO FORTUNE, FINDS NEW POPULARITY

Pretty Girls Swarm About Fountain Where Fortunate Youth Is Employed.

Yesterday it was "Give Me a Cherry Sundae, Harold!"

To-day at the confectionery store of C. D. Lee on Main street it is "Won't you please draw me a soda Mr. Burgoyne?" for word has passed beyond the store of the fortune left to the young soda-clerk and the pretty high-school girls have learned of his wealth and with their dear mammae are making unwonted pilgrimages to the soda establishment and the high stools are more frequently occupied by the fair sex than before.

From behind counters piled high with white, brown, pink and red dainties the other clerks look with envious eyes at the youthful clerk who yesterday was poor but now possesses a fortune estimated at between \$25,000 and \$50,000 through the accidental death of an aged grandmother in Springfield, Mass.

For he it is known that Harold Burgoyne, 22 years of age, a former pupil in the Barnum and Froese schools of this city, now a resident of Milford, Conn., has fallen heir to real money. Notification came through Springfield attorneys on Tuesday, who did not wish to leave him short of ready money, and sent for him to come on at once to that city that he might sign certain formal papers and slip a couple of hundred dollars cigarette money in his pocket.

Burgoyne, though little acquainted with his maternal grandmother, and thinking less of ever receiving a fortune through her demise, ascertained that at the age of 89 years she had been accounted to go to her rest when into another room by one doorway. Through an oversight for the first time in many years she recently attempted to go through another with the result that a serious fall resulted in a paralytic stroke and death. Burgoyne was the sole heir to properties which will not be settled under the Massachusetts law for probate, but which are estimated to be worth close to \$50,000. He has worked as a soda-clerk for nearly three years in this city.

Today he told friends: "I have some time to consider what I shall do with the money. I shall continue working for a while."

Several of the bank's lawyers surrounded Senator Bailey and after some conference he said to the court: "I feel that I owe to my clients a duty higher than any I owe to myself. Therefore, I will remain and continue the argument."

## TWO IMPERILED IN FLAMES FROM GAS FLARE-BACK

Civil War Veteran Enters Burning Home And Is Overcome.

MAN AWAKES WITH FIRE UNDER BED

Upper Floor of Arctic Street Tenement Is Swept By Fire.

Two persons had narrow escapes from death this forenoon when the upper section of the four family building at 428-30 Arctic street was partially gutted by fire due to flare-back of a gas stove which for cleanliness had been set upon paper.

Frank P. Somers, a veteran of the civil war, who had been attracted into the house by the excitement, was nearly overcome by the smoke. He was carried from the house by members of his family.

George V. Fildwood, a piano tuner, sleeping in an attic room directly over the flames, was awakened by the fire eating through the floor and burning the matting beneath his couch. He managed to grope from the smoke-filled room.

George Hall, orchestra leader at the American theatre on East Main street, who was first to discover the flames, which then enveloped the kitchen and were spreading through the ceiling and dining-room of the Somers apartment, sustained deep lacerations of the right hand when he attempted to smash the glass key-covering on the alarm box at the corner of East Main and Arctic streets when turning in the alarm. His injuries were later attended by a local physician.

Damage estimated at about \$150 by Chief Mooney was done the building. It is owned by the Jennings estate. Damage to furniture and fixtures burned and destroyed by chemicals is estimated by the Somers family at over \$200. It is partially covered by insurance.

The fire originated when Mrs. Fildwood tried to light a gas stove in the kitchen under which was a newspaper and beside which was a box of matches and an open closet containing a quantity of clothing. She noticed a flare-back but felt the jet and went about other housework. In a few minutes the room was like a furnace. Hall smelled smoke and investigated. He ran to the alarm box, telling Somers of the danger. Somers entered to investigate but the smoke drove him into a small dark room where he was rescued by his family and carried back to the street. It was after the arrival of the firemen that Fildwood was awakened. None knew of his predicament.

## TEACHERS PREPARE PROTEST TO MERIT SYSTEM USED HERE

Claim is Made That It Is Not Just—Annual Meeting is Held.

The annual meeting of the Bridgeport Teachers' association was held at 4:15 o'clock this afternoon in the assembly hall of the Bridgeport high school. Although the election of officers is the business of the meeting, it was expected the merit system, recently installed in the local schools, would be discussed.

Resolutions protesting the system as unfair are expected to be drawn and adopted. They will be mailed to the members of the board of education, or presented by a committee, according to plans that have been approved.

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## "ITALY WILL ENTER WAR TODAY," MESSAGE AS PARLIAMENT MEETS

## ON TRIAL AS GERMAN SPY, ALLEGED AMERICAN HANGS HIMSELF IN LONDON JAIL

Anton Kuepferle, Claiming a Residence in Brooklyn, Writes Message, Admitting His Service in Kaiser's Army—Took Life, He Wrote, Rather Than Die on the Gallows As a Spy.

London, May 20—Anton Kuepferle, who claimed to be an American citizen who once lived in Brooklyn and who has been on trial charged with giving military information to the enemies of Great Britain, committed suicide by hanging last night in Brixton Prison.

Kuepferle left a message written on a slate bearing testimony to the fairness of his trial. He also confessed he was a soldier, and he wished to die a soldier and declared he could not bear to mount the scaffold as a spy.

When court opened this morning for the resumption of the trial, the attorney-general, Lord Reading, announced the death of the prisoner to the judges.

"Since the rise of this court last night the night patrol officer, a warden named Perry, came to him and said, 'I cannot see the prisoner.'"

Warden Cook immediately arose and, opening the cell door, he found Kuepferle hanging by the neck from a ventilator in a corner behind the door. He had used a silk scarf to commit suicide and he was hanging clear of the floor. Warden Cook cut the scarf and summoned the prison doctor. The man's body was still warm but he could not be revived.

The trial of Anton Kuepferle began Tuesday at the Old Bailey police court before Lord Chief Justice Ridd. The proceedings were public and the courtroom was crowded.

The charge against the prisoner was that he attempted to communicate to Germany information respecting British warships and military forces. The prosecution was conducted by the attorney-general. It was charged that he was a German spy.

Kuepferle was writing a letter to an address in a neutral country in Europe, giving valuable facts regarding British military positions. It was also asserted that while the letter appeared on its face to be an innocent commercial communication, it was interlined in invisible ink with military information. Kuepferle showed a passport signed by Secretary of State Bryan, issued 10 days prior to his sailing from New York in military uniform. Kuepferle, in writing the letter, which resulted in his arrest, he gave his home address as 1665 De Kalb avenue, Brooklyn. He represented himself as a woolen merchant from Liverpool who went to Dublin and then to London where he was arrested on Feb. 16.

His hearing was resumed yesterday in Old Bailey in camera. "In the interests of the national safety,"

## TO REFER BOND QUESTIONS TO PEOPLE IN JUNE

Special Voting on Commission Government, Incinerator and Bridges.

The special election to vote on commission form of government and the proposed incineration plant, East Washington avenue bridge and Grand street bridge bonds probably will be held Saturday, June 12. Although Mayor Wilson has not formally announced the date he has decided on June 12 and the election will be held that day unless some thing occurs to make the mayor change his mind between now and Saturday. He was in Hartford to-day.

Under the Home Rule act by which the election is held, the vote must be taken not less than 60 days after the passage of the referendum measures nor more than 90 days afterward. Consequently, the vote must be taken on or before June 19. The mayor prefers June 12 and has selected Saturday so that those who have a half holiday will have ample time to vote.

The bond issues will come first on the machine in this order: "\$200,000 incinerator bonds; '\$150,000 East Washington avenue bridge bonds; '\$220,000 Grand street bridge bonds."

Salesmen's Rivalry Causes Pleasant But Fruitless Journey

"Al Stern," captured by the Pennsylvania police and located in jail at Reading, Pa., is not the Albert Stern wanted in this city for the theft of a violin from Miss Florence Richardson, a cabaret performer.

## Berlin Gets Report That Immediate Declaration of Hostilities is Contemplated—Minister of War Granted Full Powers—Rome Rejects Eleventh Hour Proposals of Austria Regarding Territorial Concessions.

Amsterdam, Holland, May 20—"No one in Italy any longer doubts that war begins today," is the text of a telegram sent from Chiasso, Switzerland, under date of Thursday (today) and printed in the Berliner Tageblatt.

## Full Powers For War Minister

Paris, May 20—Reports have been received here from Rome that the Italian chamber of deputies by virtue of a unanimous vote, today granted full powers to the minister of war.

## Austrian Proposals Are Rejected

Rome, May 20—Unless plans of prominent deputies miscarry, the only speaker at the session of the chamber tomorrow (Thursday) after the communication from the government is received, will be Signor Barzilai, a Republican deputy, who will plead for the liberation of Trieste, his native city, from Austrian rule.

It was learned today that the council of ministers at the protracted session, last night, unanimously rejected at the eleventh hour, proposals made for Austria for prolonging the negotiations regarding the cession of territory.

## ENGLAND IS CHEERED AS COALITION GOVERNMENT PROJECT IS HASTENED

London, May 20.—The wave of depression which has been sweeping England for the past few days, following the receipt of war news regarded as unfavorable, was checked today by the definite announcement of the cabinet of the government to form a coalition cabinet, together with news from the eastern front.

It is believed here that the Russian advance near Shavh, in Courland, where the line of the forces of Emperor Nicholas have been straightened out, will do much to counteract the effect of the Austro-German advance in the vicinity of Przemyel, across the river San.

The military writers in the morning newspapers claim that only one out of 14 Russian armies has been in deadly danger and that Grand Duke Nicholas, commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in the field, is playing the usual strategic game of drawing the enemy away from his base.

Reports from Athens set forth that the allies have occupied the Turkish position of Kild Bahr on the European side of the straits and opposite Chanak. Occupation took place after the position had been reduced by a bombardment of the fleet.

On the western front the only indications of activity is the continuance of artillery duels. The Italian parliament meets to-day. It is generally felt that the momentous decision of war or peace can hardly be postponed beyond this sitting, although reports of the current that Austria has increased the concessions she is willing to make in order to insure Italian neutrality.

The German press, while admitting that war with Italy can hardly be avoided, views the prospect calmly, the opinion even expressed that Austria, because of the Italian attack, may be compelled to make a separate peace with Russia, a course which probably would result in the release of more German troops for service on the western frontier.

## BLOCKADE HAS COST GERMANS 17 SUBMARINES.

London, May 20.—The Evening News has received a despatch from

## BRIDGEPORT GETS NEXT CONVENTION OF MEDICAL ASSO.

Hartford, May 20.—Departing from its custom since organization in 1793 of holding alternate yearly meetings in New Haven and Hartford, the Connecticut State Medical Society today voted to hold its annual meeting for 1915 in Bridgeport, the third Wednesday and Thursday in May. The semi-annual meeting will be held in Middlesex county, place not decided.

These officers were elected: President, Dr. Max Mailhouse, New Haven; vice-presidents, Dr. C. B. Graves, Portland; Dr. C. A. Sears, Portland; Secretary, Dr. Marvin M. Scarborough, New Haven; treasurer, Dr. Joseph H. Townsend, New Haven.

## CARNEGIE IS INVITED TO SCOTCH CONCERT

Compensation Commissioner E. T. Buckingham has invited Andrew Carnegie to preside at a "Scotch Concert" to be given in Olivet Congregational church on the evening of May 27th. There will be Scotch songs, recitations and bagpipe selections.

The majority of the artists participating in this concert will be of Scotch descent. There will be a collection to start a fund to build a memorial hall in connection with the church, with a gymnasium in the hall for boys and girls; also to provide a circulating library.

## PRESIDENT HAPPY OVER SUCCESS OF BIG NAVY REVIEW

Washington, May 20.—President Wilson's impressions of the Atlantic fleet which he reviewed at New York early this week, were set forth in the following statement, issued at the White House to-day, on the President's return:

"I was greatly struck with the appearance of the fleet and, quiet efficiency shown by the officers and men as I am sure everyone must have been who had the pleasure of seeing it assembled at New York. There was no more interesting verification of Admiral Dewey's statement that the navy was never in a better or more efficient condition and that the country not only has every reason to be proud of it but every reason to wish to go forward in its policy of steadily adding to its strength and equipment."

## SUBMARINE SINKS ANOTHER TRAWLER

Peterhead, Scotland, May 20.—The British trawler Chrysolite was sunk by a German submarine at a point 20 miles off Kinnaird's Head in the North Sea yesterday.

## WEATHER FORECAST

Increasing cloudiness to-night, Friday rain; moderate north to northeast winds.